

Plastic Recycling

For many years Maidstone residents have asked us to collect plastic for recycling. Plastic packaging waste is bulky but light compared to other materials such as glass or paper. To get the most environmental benefit from recycling any material, it is best to move it as little as possible to avoid transport costs, fuel use and air pollution.

Maidstone Borough Council now has access to the Materials Recycling Facility in Allington, as this is a local sorting and bulking facility, we are now able to include all plastic bottles in our recycling collections as there are good markets for these in the UK.

We will also accept margarine tubs, yoghurt pots and ice cream tubs; these may be recycled, depending on the fluctuating markets. If there is not a buyer for these items they will be diverted into incineration, creating energy from waste.

We ask people **not** to include **any other** types of plastic packaging, such as plastic bags or sacks, food trays, plastic fruit or vegetable punnets, cake trays, cling film, polystyrene packaging, bubble wrap, flower pots and broken toys to name a few. There is currently no market for these types of plastic and if placed in recycling bins/boxes, not only will it reduce the space available for other materials, if taken to Allington it will slow down the whole sorting process. These types of plastics should be placed in your grey wheelie bin with your rubbish that cannot be recycled.

In time we hope more types of plastic may be accepted, however we believe that concentrating on increasing the amount of recycling of materials we can easily process is more beneficial to the environment.

NO THANK YOU X – Just a few examples of the types of plastic we are **unable** to accept!



Plastic bags/sacks **X**



Plastic food trays **X**



Plastic fruit/vegetable containers **X**



Plastic pouches **X**



Crisp/snack bags **X**



Clingfilm **X**